(b) The quantum of coal supplied to these Power Stations during the last three years from Coal India Limited Sources are as under :

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

(Data provisional)

Power Stations	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Wanakbori	6483	6042	7521
Gandhinagar	3018	3544	3661
Ukai	3822	3363	3137
Sikka	1101	306	718
Total	**14424**	**13255**	**15037**

(Source : Coal India Limited Report)

(c) and (d) There was no shortage in supplies of coal to GSEB. Besides, coal supplies to power houses are reviewed regularly by an Inter-ministerial committee, and appropriate action is taken to step up supplies, wherever, necessary.

Precious Stones in Western Orissa

2848. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware of the existence of precious and semi-precious stones in western Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas where these precious stones are available;

(c) the steps taken to prevent the smuggling of these stones;

(d) the efforts made for the proper exploration of these stones; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Precious and semi-precious stones are available in the following Gemstone belts of Orissa :—Jhilli-Magarmuhan-Naugaon in Angul/Dhenkanal district; Charbati-Rairakhol-Beldihi, Jujmara-Bagdhapa-Tabloi, Meghpal-Ranchipara in Sambalpur district; Budido-Palsama-Jharposi in Deogarh district; Bagdihi in Jarsuguda district; Ghuchepali-Antarla, Ghumsar-Delhi, Muribahal-

tentelkhunti, Saraibahal-Suklimuri in Bolangir district; Naktamunda-Siali, Badmal-Mursundi, Binika-Sonepur in Subarnapur district, Boudh-Ramgarh, Kantamal-Manmunda, Bargochha in Boudh district; Jillingdhar-Hinjli-Bahal, Orabahal-Urharanga, Ghatpara-Singhijharan, Sirjapali-Tundla, Banjhipadar-Sargiguda in Kalahandi district; Sardhapur-Patialpada, Katamal-Bebebir-Amera, Damjhor-Burhapada-Mantritarai in Nuapada district; Paikdakulguda-Hatamuniguda, Irkubadi-Tarhama, Karlaghati-Karanjgurha in Rayagada district and Belghar-Jhirpani in Phulbhani district.

(c) State Governments are empowered to take action under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 for preventing illegal mining/ smuggling. Recently the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act has been amended and further provisions added to strengthen the hands of State Governments in preventing smuggling of minerals.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Orissa had identified 28 gem bearing tracts under a UNDP assisted project. Of these 28 tracts, prospecting has been completed in 18. In accordance with its Gem Stone Policy of 1998, the State Government has undertaken expeditious prospecting in the balance 10 tracts.

Strike in Singareni Coal Mines

2849. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Singareni Coal miners went on strike for 13 days in February, 2000;

(b) if so, their demands and agreements made with the Management before calling off the strike; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid such strikes in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Singareni Collieries Workers' Union (SCWU), a recognised Union, organised a strike throughout the Company from first shift of 09-02-2000 to 21-02-2000.

(b) Major demands of the Union were as under:—

(i) Early finalisation of National Coal Wage Agreement-VI,

(ii) Payment of House Rent Allowance @ 10% of basic pay to the employees living in 3 'C' class towns,